

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

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Mission Statement

St. Vincent de Paul Society is a Christian volunteer organization working with the disadvantaged. Inspired by Frederic Ozanam and our Patron, St. Vincent de Paul, we respond to people in need and strive to bring the love of Christ to all we serve.

No work of charity is foreign to the Society. We are involved in a diverse range of activities characterized by:

- support and fundraising;
- promoting self-sufficiency;
- working for social justice.

Begun in France in the 1800's, the first conference in the United States was started right here in St. Louis, Missouri. The tradition continues within the parish community and reaches into every part of our city and county. The Society, as a personal advocate for the poor, responds with help in many areas: housing, legal aid, food, utility assistance, prescription assistance, criminal justice ministry, shelters and thrift stores. Our own Immacolata conference twins with 14 parishes conferences, four food pantries and one men's shelter; we answer calls for assistance within our own community.

What We Do

- Twin with 14 St. Vincent de Paul conferences in the St. Louis community, specifically within the Central District Council in which we serve.
- Work with four area food pantries; for example, 18 women shop for and deliver supplemental food each month to St. Cronin's Parish food pantry.
- Answer calls that come into our own parish. We respond by going two-by-two to the homes of those who call on us.
- Provide food, clothing, furnishings (through our thrift stores); gift cards for food, utility help, rent, medical, gas, car repairs.
- Clothing and food drives
- Job referrals
- Work with many St. Louis area organizations that can also provide services when we are unable to help.

- Deliver the food and items collected in our closet (located in the back of church) each week.
- Christmas Sharing projects
- Host the annual Walk for the Poor on the feast of St. Vincent De Paul in September, where we honor those with whom we twin, and the good work they do. This is a day to show our solidarity with the community of workers who serve the poor.
- **Sponsorship of the “MVP’s, i.e., the “Mini St. Vincent de Paul” group at Our Parish, the student arm of our Society.**
This group of students and their mentors:
 - Makes sandwiches and delivers them for distribution to the poor.
 - Prepares and serves meals at St. Peter and Paul Shelter (with the support of our own conference).
 - Prepares and provides a meal once a month for the Karen House.
 - Volunteers at many Immacolata functions, including two major St. Vincent de Paul fundraisers.
- Additional Activities:
 - Distribution of turkeys donated at the *Immacolata Turkey Trot* before Thanksgiving each year, run by the Immacolata Wellness Committee.
 - Two Fundraisers a year at Immacolata:
 - *Trivia Night*;
 - The *Bob Barnidge Memorial Concert*, in memory of Bob, a St. Vincent de Paul member for years; organized by his wife, Nancy Barnidge.

Finances

Our conference has a financial commitment of nearly \$6,000.00 paid out to our twinning conferences every two months.

Estimated annual budget: Approx. \$50,000.00.

Besides fundraisers, we are also given the proceeds of a second collection in our parish in December and May. Personal donations are also accepted in order for us to meet the many requests for assistance.

How Many People are Served

The number of people served varies from month to month. In December we may serve as many as 500 people, and many more through the conferences with whom we twin.

What are the Needs

Our needs are always for additional funds. When we have extra funds, they are distributed to the twinning conferences.

Our greatest need outside of money is food...food...food. We are always trying to find new ways to raise the awareness of the need for food.

Volunteer Opportunities

All volunteers are paired with an experienced Vincentian who guides that member in answering our calls. Volunteers are given a very thorough orientation for serving and can choose their own path for service. There are many opportunities for service that we can incorporate if the desire and the commitment are there.